

The Sherlock House  
North side of South Pass Avenue  
South Pass City  
Fremont County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-47

HABS  
WYO,  
7-SOPAC,  
20-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20005

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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## THE SHERLOCK HOUSE

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20-

Location: North side of South Pass Avenue, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680900.4703900.

Present Owner: State of Wyoming.

Present Occupant: Ralph Leeds and family.

Statement of Significance: This is the home of the pioneer Sherlock family of Fremont County.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Ca. 1898
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: (Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) The cabin was built by members of the Sherlock family ca. 1898 (at the same time the Smith-Sherlock store was built). The land on which the cabin stood was part of the Wolverine claim patented in 1893 by W. T. Meadows, Jno V. Anderson, Ed Carns and J. B. Irvin. This in turn was purchased by Barney Tibbals in 1896 for \$201 and he sold the property to Charles Van Sickle in 1898 for \$200. Van Sickle sold the land to John C. Spry for \$12,000 in 1899. Spry sold the land for one dollar to the Federal Gold Mining Company of which he was president. The Federal Gold Mining Company sold the land to Mrs. Janet Smith, John Sherlock, William Sherlock and Peter Sherlock for \$1 in 1901. In the next years, there were several deaths in the Sherlock family. Janet Smith died leaving as her heirs Peter Sherlock, Jennie Sherlock, John Sherlock, William Sherlock, Anna Tibbals and James Smith. John Sherlock died in 1936 leaving as his heirs Lulu Sherlock, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock and Donald Sherlock. In 1948, Janet Sherlock died leaving as her heirs Anna Tibbals, Janet Tibbals and James Tibbals. Peter Sherlock died in 1947 leaving as his heirs William Sherlock, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock, Donald Sherlock and Lulu Topham.

During 1948 and 1949, James Sherlock bought the property from the surviving heirs for \$10 and other considerations. Those he bought property from included William Sherlock, Anna Tibbals, James Smith, Lulu Topham, Richard Sherlock, Donald Sherlock, Janet Tibbals, James Tibbals, Janett Payne and Norman Smith. James Sherlock sold the property to Fred Stratton in 1949 for \$10. Stratton sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. John Woodring in 1955. The Woodrings turned over the property to the Wyoming 75th Anniversary Commission, Inc. in 1966. This corporation sold the property to the Old South Pass Historical Preserve in 1967. The Old South Pass Historical Preserve was phased out by the 1969 Wyoming legislature and the maintenance and operation of South Pass City was placed under control of the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

4. Alterations and additions: The original cabin consisted only of two rooms. About 1905 the east bedroom (now the kitchen) was added. In 1908, the present north bedroom (former kitchen) was added to the cabin and in 1910 a lean-to was added to the west side of the building which was later razed. In 1930, the porch was added and in 1935, an east bedroom and a rear lean-to were added. In 1968, the entire house was remodeled and electricity added by the Old South Pass Historical Preserve Commission. At that time the exterior was restored while the interior was made habitable.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The most important family connected with the building is the Sherlock family, pioneer residents of Fremont County.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photograph file, Wyoming Recreation Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Fremont County, Abstract of Titles for Township 29,  
Fremont County Courthouse; Laramie, Wyoming.

Sherlock, James, member of pioneer Sherlock family; interview in South Pass City, Wyoming on July 18, 1973.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 19, 1973.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Muths, Thomas. Restoration Master Plan, South Pass City, Wyoming. Jackson, Wyoming: Design Associates, 1972.

Prepared by John Paige  
Project Historian  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This well-maintained cabin was the residence of one of the most important families associated with South Pass City, Wyoming.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This one-story structure is approximately 28' x 50'.
2. Foundations: Red slate shist.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls of the rear addition (bedroom, laundry room and bathroom) are vertical boards and battens. All other walls are unfinished lodgepole pine logs.
4. Structural system, framing: Log bearing walls.
5. Porches, stoops: Enclosed front (south) entry porch with wooden stoop and steps. Wooden stoop with gabled canopy over side (east) entrance.
6. Chimneys: Brick chimney in center of ridge of gabled roof. Galvanized iron flue above roof over rear addition.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The front entry into the porch has a plywood door. The east and west (side) entrances have

three-panel one-light doors. There is a four-panel screen door on the east (side) entrance into the kitchen.

- b. Windows and shutters: There are two types of windows in the structure. They are six-over-six light double-hung windows and six-by-six light horizontal sliding windows.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The original portion of the building and an addition to the east have gabled roofs. The enclosed front porch, the rear addition and all connecting additions have shed roofs. All roofs have wooden shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: All exposed roof edges have five-and one-half inch barge boards.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plan: This structure consists of an enclosed front entry porch, living room, kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, laundry room and bathroom. The original element of the cabin consisted of the living room, bedroom and a heater closet between the two rooms which are all under the main gable roof. Later additions included (1) front entry porch; (2) kitchen/dining room; (3) rear bedroom, laundry room, and bathroom and (4) a bedroom between the kitchen/dining room and the bathroom. Each addition is apparent by its individual roof.
- 2. Stairways: There is a wooden stairway under a trap door at the northeast corner of the living room which goes into a crawl-space under the building.
- 3. Flooring: Asphalt tile.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The front entry porch is gypsum board with taped joints. The walls throughout the remainder of the structure are plywood paneling textured to appear as random width vertical wooden paneling. The ceilings throughout the remainder of the structure are non-perforated acoustical tile of various sizes and supported by a variety of suspension systems.
- 5. Doorways and doors: All closet doors are plastic accordian sliding doors. All other doors are four-panel wooden doors.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Located on the north side of South Pass Avenue this building is in what was originally the center of the community. It is oriented twenty degrees east of south.
2. Landscaping: There is an enclosed east (side) yard with an iron picket fence along the boardwalk (south) side.

Prepared by J. William Rudd  
Architect  
Project Supervisor  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhler, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.